

## Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

COME-00 CIEP-01 NIC-01 /064 W  
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O 022135Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5228

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0030

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MILI, BL

SUBJ: CURRENT BOLIVIAN SCENE

1. RECENT REPORTS OF STATEMENTS BY SOME SENIOR BOLIVIAN MILITARY OFFICERS INDICATE THAT THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY IS NOT MUCH MORE UNITED NOW THAN IT WAS BEFORE THE "NEW ORDER" WAS PROCLAIMED NOVEMBER 9, AND THAT PRESIDENT BANZER HAS NOT IMPROVED HIS POSITION WITHIN THE BOLIVIAN MILITARY. THIS ALLEGED LACK OF UNITY WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO GET THROUGH THE PERIOD OF PROTESTS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE ANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT OF VARIOUS PRICE INCREASES IN MID-JANUARY, AND INCREASES THE PROSPECTS THAT A LEFTIST CIVILIAN GROUPING COULD INDUCE A SPLIT WITHIN THE MILITARY ALONG IDEOLOGICAL LINES IN ANOTHER COUP ATTEMPT.

2. AA NUMBER OF EMBASSY CONTACTS ARE BEGINNING TO SUGGEST THAT THE MAN WHO COULD UNIFY THE MILITARY AND OVERCOME A DANGEROUS RESPONSE TO ECONOMIC MEASURES (BY CREATING A SO-CALLED GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND PROMISING ELECTIONS WITHIN A COUPLE OF YEARS) IS COLONEL JOSE PATINO AYOROA, RECENTLY OUSTED MINISTER OF HOUSING. PATINO ALLEGEDLY HAS SUPPORT OF YOUNGER OFFICERS AND BROAD SPECTRUM OF CIVILIANS, AND  
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WE KNOW FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT HE HAS BEEN PLAYING UP

TO PAZ ESTENSSORO GROUP OF MNR.

3. CURRENT COORDINATION MINISTER JUAN LECHIN IS VIEWED BY MANY POLITICAL OBSERVERS NOW AS BEING TOO SUBSERVIENT TO BANZER TO SATISFY THE DEMAND FOR CHANGE, AND WILL IN ANY CASE GET THE BRUNT OF THE BLAME FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE ECONOMIC MEASURES. ALTHOUGH HE HAS TOLD FRIENDS THAT HE ASPIRES TO THE PRESIDENCY, HIS FIRST PRIORITY IS TO BECOME COMMANDER OF THE ARMY. CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT A TRADITIONAL GOB RESPONSE TO PUBLIC PROTEST IS A CABINET SHUFFLE, IT MAY WELL BE THAT THERE WILL BE A CABINET CRISIS SHORTLY AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEASURES, IN WHICH LECHIN COULD BE MOVED TO TOP ARMY JOB.

PARKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY CAPABILITIES, MILITARY POLICIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CURRENT BOLIVIAN SCENE  
**TAGS:** PINT, MILI, BL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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